

**PIEDMONT DIVISION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT  
November 8, 2011**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. at Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA, by Howard Goodwin, Superintendent.

Board Members Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (14)*: Rick Coble, Peter Youngblood, Bob McIntyre, Charlie Crawford, Howard Goodwin, Mike Deaton, Chris White, Joe Sullivan, Bill Zawacki, Gary Jarabek, Paul Rankin, David Gelmini, Scott Chatfield, Scott Povlot

Absent (0):

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (17)*: Perry Lamb, Ken Raymond, John Travis, Edward Laity, Bob Wood, Joe Nichols, Sr, I.D. Jackson, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, Ron Gough, Randall Watson, Walt Liles Tom Banks, John Stevens, Len Polinsky, Vic Pitrowski, Doug Alexander

**Officer and Director Reports**

***Administration—Rick Coble***

Rick continues to compile committee lists and rosters as information is received. A motion was made by Joe Sullivan to approve the October 2011 minutes. Seconded by Peter Youngblood. Motion passed.

***Finance—Chris White***

Chris distributed the September Financial Report as an Excel spreadsheet. He has the following comments:

- We have concluded the August Auction numbers with additional income of \$34 for an item not charged for. (HG).
- The Pilgrimage Income and Expenses make up much of the activity for the month. The expenses were reduced considerably because of the generous benefactor providing free printing - the Division purchases the paper. In addition Bobby Mc and his sales team achieved outstanding Ad sales.
- Timetable expenses were also reduced because of the free printing.
- John Stevens and Piedmont volunteers completed another successful Merit Badge program in August.
- Miscellaneous expenses were incurred for AV equipment, AP "Nest in Show" plaque, and 2012 Train Show vendor mailing.

A motion was made by Bill Zawacki to approve the October 2011 Financial Report. Gary Jarabek. Motion passed.

Chris distributed a draft budget with preliminary numbers for 2012. He recommended that the new incoming Director of Finance finalize the Budget at the January meeting.

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***Operations—Charlie Crawford***

In arranging Home Layout tours for March, I found that the Sunday after our Meeting is the Train Show Weekend. Therefore I propose we ask that March Open Houses be on March 25, 2012.

I have also received an offer from three of our members to open their layouts on Sunday April 8, 2012. I believe this would north on I-75. While the week before our meeting, this would allow three distant layouts to be seen on one day. This was done on at least one occasion in the past.

Scott Chatfield recommended moving all open houses to April 1. Charlie Crawford and Howard Goodwin will follow up.

***Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin***

Prior to the meeting, Paul sent a spreadsheet showing general meeting attendance since 2005.

The spreadsheets include "rolling averages" for the past 12 and the past 24 months. These show seasonal and annual trends in the numbers of people who attend our meetings in Tucker. We'll be able to monitor the effects of the alternating venue for the first half of next year to see if we can determine any beneficial or harmful effects on attendance.

In addition to the report, he would like to implement some items to track attendance through the "dual meeting sites period":

I'm also going to ask attendees to sign in to the next 8 meetings or so. The sign-in sheets will have name and zip code, and ask members how many of the previous 12 months' meetings they attended, to see if they're people who always come, or if they're coming because it's in the new venue. We'll also be able to make some sort of guess about current regulars who aren't making meetings at the new venue

Doug Alexander suggested using clipboards with the attendance sheets. Paul will look into this.

**Committee Reports**

***Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre***

The October Meeting was completed. In attendance were the Assistant Convention Chairs and key personnel including the treasurer. The key objective was to implement the timelines for the inside and outside activities. This will provide action plans from this point going forward to the Convention. We did not receive 100% of them but the process has been started. We are also looking for budgets for each subcommittee to be submitted to Chris White our Treasurer. We discussed the layout, prototype, non-rail, and general interest tours.

We are going to do a Convention car. We are looking to place a local business such as Chick-Fil-A, Home Depot, or Coke on it along with the Peachtree Express logo. Peter Youngblood has made some preliminary contacts with potential manufacturers

Howard Goodwin arranged tours of the CSX training facility through Piedmont member Charlie Brown.

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***Peachtree Express— continued***

Updates were provided on registration. The clinic chair is making contacts. We will be handling the company store and silent auctions. As a Division we may be asked to run the silent auction in Grand Rapids.

We discussed the ramifications of the NMRA not currently using Convention Registration numbers. We did not come up with a solution.

Meeting frequency will change to monthly beginning in January 2012.

***Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre***

Attendance update (through 6<sup>th</sup>) was provided by Gary Jarabek: 3,647 visitors, for an average of 85 per layout.

***Member Aid— Bob McIntyre***

No requests

***Achievement Program-Bob McIntyre***

This month we will be giving out the contest certificates and merit awards for the October Model Contest. The Best in Show recipient and sole Merit Award honoree is Dan Mansfield.

***Timetable - Rick Coble***

Doug Alexander is our new Timetable Editor. Doug has a lot of fresh ideas and I know that you will like the work that he will do.

***Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek***

***Aprons:***

Both style aprons sold very well. The order has been placed for those who signed the order sheet. The aprons will be available at the November meeting.

***Advertising:***

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through February 2012 Issue  
Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through February 2012 Issue.  
Trains.com submitted through February 2012

The February meeting notice reflects the Marietta location.

Pilgrimage

NMRA submitted for October and November  
Railroad Model Craftsman submitted October and November  
Trains.com through November

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***Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - continued***

**Company Store:**

There are only med and XL of old style short sleeve polo shirts left to sell. These will be sold at \$28.00.

Putty polo shirts only 2XL remain at the price of \$33.00, 2XL.

Blue polo shirt is in stock. Complete size range (med to 3XL).

Med to 2XL available in long sleeve denim shirts. .

Vests have been sold out.

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

***Model Train Show (2012) –Joe Gelmini***

- We are 64% sold/reserved on 262 vendor tables
- Contact made with Events Unlimited for tables and chairs
- ID Jackson working on raffle license
- First vendor mailing went out October 18.

***Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini***

- Get well letters sent to Ransom Hunt (kidney failure) and Ray White (car accident).
- Congrats letter sent to Paul Rankin (1st. grandchild).

***Website - Scott Povlot***

The website received 13,073 page requests in September 2011, and 32,832 in October. Scott distributed a report showing activity since 2008.

***Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens***

- I am still working on the Girl Scouts of America (GSA) program. No progress to report.
- We set up two switching layouts for the SRM Model Railroading Day in support of the Piedmont Pilgrimage. We had two counselors in place all day and one counselor in place for half a day. Thanks to all who supported the museum.
- The 2012 dates for the scout program will be determined in late December.

***Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) - Bill Ello, Howard Goodwin***

We tentatively have 26 boys from 9b troops registered. It looks like this will be a filled Course in Kennesaw. I believe we will be filled well before the Dec 1 Cut Off Date for the Dec 17 Workshop.

***Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood***

Nothing new to report.

***Name Badges - James Bando***

James made three name tags this month.

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**Old Business**

***Hospital Layout – Tether Collection - John Travis***

John is looking at a dedication of the layout on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

***Operations Jamboree (Joe Sullivan)***

Howard Goodwin will take on Operations Jamboree for 2012. The Jamboree will move to April.

***Facilities - Howard Goodwin***

During the six-month alternate meeting place period, division meetings in Marietta will take place in February, April, and June. Tucker meetings will take place January, March, and May.

Member notification by postcard will take place prior to the February meeting. Notification will also be included in the Timetable and on the website.

***2012 NASG Convention (Howard Goodwin)***

The National Association of S Gaugers is holding its 2012 convention in Chattanooga August 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Howard Goodwin is attending on behalf of the NMRA. This is a good opportunity to promote Peachtree Express as well as the NMRA. He is looking for others to assist in Chattanooga.

***Raffle Layout***

**2012 Layout**

The 2012 layout is complete and stored at the home of Chris White. Chris sold tickets during his Pilgrimage open house.

**2014 Layout**

Kevin Bush is storing the 2014 raffle layout.

***Member Privacy - Rick Coble***

The Piedmont BOD adopted a confidentiality policy at the October meeting. He will communicate with BOD members and committee chairs over the next two months so we can resolve any issues questions and make changes, if necessary, in the handling of member information.

***Timetable Printing Costs - Howard Goodwin/Rick Coble***

As discussed in the August meeting, the BOD discussed a \$500 contribution to Alex's Lemonade Stand, a charity supporting the battle against childhood cancer. Tom Scott, cousin of the founder of the site, printed the Q4 2011 Timetable and Piedmont Pilgrimage booklets for the cost of the paper. This resulted in significant savings for the division. Tom has also done many other print jobs for the division at no cost.

Charlie Crawford moved that the Piedmont Division make a donation to Alex's Lemonade Stand. Seconded by David Gelmini.

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***Timetable Printing Costs - continued***

Mike Deaton asked if there was an alternative to making a direct donation from the Division to the charity such as making a payment for the services rendered, with the understanding that the funds would then be forwarded in our name, as it did not seem appropriate for the Board to be distributing charitable contributions, even for a worthy cause and when allocated from savings we had received.

The general consensus was that it was the Board's intent to make a direct donation in our name, as this was the suggestion from the printer when asked if we could do anything for his assistance.

Motion passed.

***Strategic Planning Meeting***

Rick Coble sent emails to committee heads and board members concerning recommendations from the meeting. Rick would like to publish a follow up report for the BOD prior to the January 2012 meeting.

***TrainNCamp Clinics (Howard Goodwin, Charlie Crawford)***

TrainNCamp Scenery Clinic, part 1 was held at HobbyTown Kennesaw on October 29. Part 2 is scheduled for December 3.

***Holiday Party***

Mike and Julie Deaton, unable to coordinate this year's holiday party, arranged for Joe and Dottie Maiuro to run this year's party. Dottie will make an announcement and circulate a sign-up sheet at the November general meeting. A budget of \$300 was previously established for the party.

**New Business**

On behalf of the division, Howard Goodwin, Rob Dodds, and Perry Lamb have placed a small display in the Regional Public Library (Paulding County) to celebrate Model Railroad month at the behest of the Library Director. We are starting to get some positive feedback from this display, Paulding so far). We have also included a lot of Piedmont Propaganda (Timetables, Pilgrimage, etc) for the display.

Del Kittendorf can provide a 5' x 8' layout, currently at the SERM.

We may be wise to consider a "traveling display" that can be set up quickly for just such events. The Board should consider putting together a traveling display.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Coble, Director of Administration